



Home » Director's Message
Director's Message

In January 1971 a remarkable event occurred that permanently altered conventional assumptions about justice administration. Jerome G Miller, then commissioner of youth corrections in Massachusetts, systemically carried out the most sweeping reforms in correctional history. He closed the state's five juvenile reform schools and transferred over 1500 youths to an assortment of community-based programs. These actions, which were at first greeted with skepticism and derision by much of the correctional establishment, proved to be revolutionary in changing popular assumptions about the treatment of youth in trouble. Research revealed that when not subject to abusive prison-like conditions, young offenders were less likely to display violent and criminally prone behaviors later on. Most importantly, well-designed and properly implemented rehabilitation programs substantially reduce recidivism among even the most difficult offenders.

While the trend toward punitive public policies in recent years has undermined these important lessons, the legacy of Miller's reforms lives on. A growing number of jurisdictions throughout the United States are now recognizing the importance of substituting retributive practices with a more balanced array of sanctions and interventions. Without a focus on offender social reintegration current criminal justice policies founder on the mistaken premise that criminal behavior is reduced by the harsh conditions of modern correctional institutions. By failing to address crime's root causes, criminal justice policies that rely on incarceration exacerbate public safety risks as evidenced by recidivism rates around the country that exceed 70%.

The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) was established to promote balanced and humane criminal justice policies that reduce incarceration and promote long-term public safety. CJCJ's mission is pursued through the development of model programs, technical assistance, research/policy analysis, and public education.

The quality of our work is demonstrated through our various initiatives. Our Detention Diversion Advocacy Project an alternative to secure detention for San Francisco youths, was a 1999 semi finalist for Harvard University's prestigious Innovations in Government Award. In 2000, it was cited as a national model by the United States Department of Justice and has been replicated in five cities around the country.

In addition to our juvenile programs, CJCJ also operates model pretrial services for special populations and residential drug treatment programs for adult parolees. Finally, CJCJ's Sentencing Service Program is a national leader in providing independent pre-sentence investigation and mitigation reports.

Along with our direct services and technical assistance, CJCJ produces research and policy studies. CJCJ's policy efforts are currently centered on sentencing and adult corrections reform and juvenile justice reform. In the past five years, by working in partnership with all major criminal justice stakeholders including legislators, correctional administrators, district attorneys, defender advocates, community-based organizations, and civil rights groups, CJCJ has performed a leadership role in helping forge a broad consensus on reforming California's juvenile justice system.

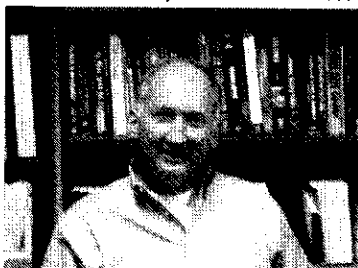
Because humane treatment of individuals convicted of criminal acts is not always a popular issue in today's political climate, reforming criminal justice systems is a daunting challenge. An effective criminal justice system is one that focuses on creating fewer victims not better criminals. After more than two decades, CJCJ is a premier leader in criminal justice reform. Our success is rooted in our commitment and determination to assume the most difficult challenges and not become complacent with conventional approaches.

In the coming years, CJCJ will expand its efforts to build a broad consensus on criminal justice reform. Only

through a more humane and sensible criminal justice system will the goal of greater public safety and social justice be attained.

Sincerely Yours,

Daniel Macallair, Executive Director



Daniel Macallair, M.P.A
(415) 621-5661 ext. 310
dmacallair@cjcj.org

Daniel Macallair is the Executive Director and a co-founder of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. His expertise is in the development and analysis of youth and adult correctional policy. He has implemented model community corrections programs and incarceration alternatives throughout the country. In 1993, Mr. Macallair established the Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) for serious and chronic youth offenders in San Francisco's juvenile justice system. This program was cited as an exemplary model by the United States Department of Justice and Harvard University's Innovations in American Government program. In 1994, Mr. Macallair received a leadership award from the State of Hawaii for his efforts in reforming that state's juvenile corrections system and developing model community-based reentry programs. Mr. Macallair is presently involved in efforts to reform California's juvenile justice system by providing technical assistance to state and local policy makers and juvenile justice officials. Mr. Macallair is also involved in efforts to reform California's adult sentencing and parole practices and serves as an advisor to the State's prestigious Little Hoover Commission.

Mr. Macallair's research and publications have appeared in such journals as the Stanford Law and Policy Review, Journal of Crime and Delinquency, Youth and Society, Journal of Juvenile Law, and the Western Criminology Review. His studies and commentary are often cited in national and international news outlets including the BBC, CBS Evening News, ABC Nightly News, NBC Evening News, CNN, FOX News, the Today Show, National Public Radio, New York Times, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, and Los Angeles Times. He is also the coeditor with Randall Shelden in the upcoming book *Juvenile Justice in America: Problems and Prospects* and with Vincent Schiraldi on *Reforming Juvenile Corrections: Reasons and Strategies for the 21st Century*. He teaches in the Department of Criminal Justice Studies at San Francisco State University and is an invited speaker and trainer at conferences and seminars throughout the country (<http://bss.sfsu.edu/cjustice/index.htm>).

Awards/Honors

Social Justice Award	San Francisco District Attorney's Office, for leadership in promoting sensible and rational alternatives to incarceration (2003)
PASS Award	National Council on Crime and Delinquency, for the development and implementation of media/communication strategies in the criminal justice field (2002)
Outstanding Faculty Award	San Francisco State University, Criminal Justice Student Association (May 2003)
Commencement Speaker	San Jose State University, Department of Criminal Justice, (May 2001)
Innovations in Government Award, Semifinalist	Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Ford Foundation for Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (1998)
Leadership Award	Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth (2001) State of Hawaii, Office of Youth Services (1994)
Agency of the Year	San Francisco Delinquency Prevention Commission, for the Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (1993)
Diversity Award	Center for Human Development, for the Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (1993)

Commentaries:

Macallair, Daniel and G. Thomas Gitchoff, "*Cruelty in our Criminal Justice System*", San Diego Union Tribune, May 9, 2008, B-7.

Macallair, Daniel, "U.S. Among Harshest for Sentencing Children" *San Francisco*

